



September 13, 2026 | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have We Lost Our Way?

Complacency has beguiled us. Caught up in the web of bewilderment and shock we have succumbed to a new normal. Daily events have overwhelmed our senses; disbelief is accompanied by despair and fear. What will tomorrow bring? In the span of a few short years, the very notion of truth has been compromised, our moral compass bent in the direction of greed and bombast, and our will to right what has been hijacked by feckless agents eviscerated. In the dread of the present moment, nonetheless, we stand, alone or with others, at the intersection of a complex network of paths. Which one do we choose to take? We can either tolerate the madness and meander in a maze of golden hued phantasms or stand tall and walk in the direction of truth, righteousness, and justice—hallmarks of the kingdom of God, of what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

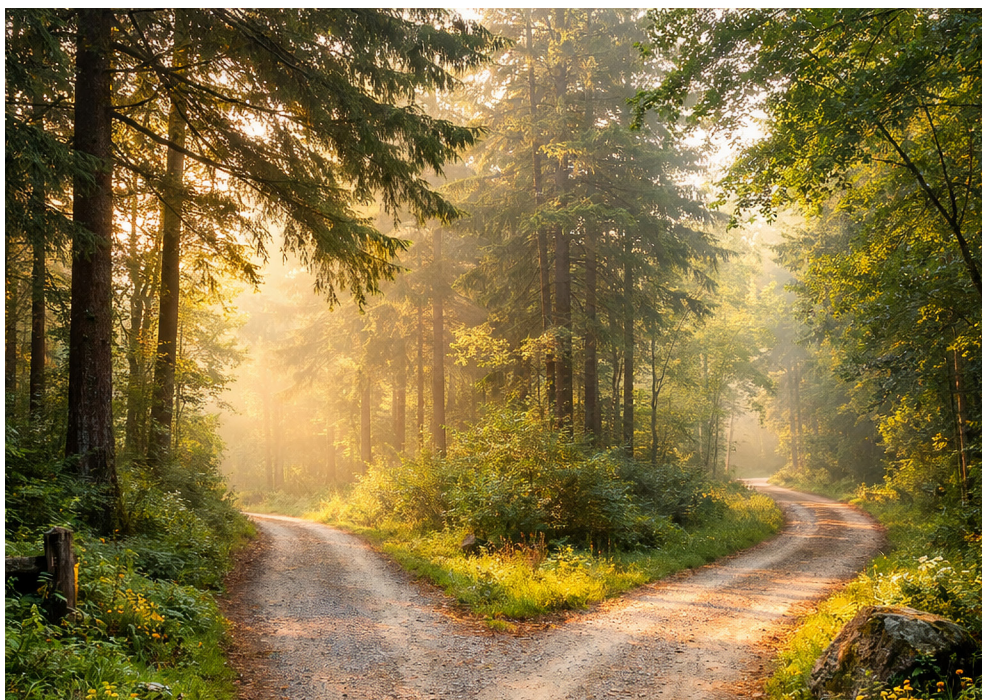
One of my favorite Robert Frost poems is *The Road Not Taken*. I am sure many of us are familiar with it from our primary or secondary school days. It is well worth reading again.

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood,
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*



The path one takes is always a matter of personal choice, a decision informed by both intellect and emotions. How to decide sometimes takes on more importance than what to decide. In our decision-making, when there is harmony between reason and love—love of neighbor, love of self, love of God—the serenity of peace envelops and guides us. The brilliance of that serenity illuminates the path that beckons us, and each decision we make throughout our lives and in our daily routines is a step on the path we have chosen. However, immersed in the distractions of *how way leads on to way*, we sometimes lose our direction. Our focus and energy are often hijacked and our courage wanes. No longer steadfast in our gait, it can seem too great a risk to continue on the road we have chosen.

Perhaps today more than at any other time in recent memory, we cannot be complacent. It is good to be reminded of the path we have chosen, a path that all too often feels less traveled by, a path that demands courage, commitment, and labor. To be a member of this parish is to travel together on the same road with joy in our hearts, as heralds of hope in a frightening world, to bring solace to those who hunger for understanding, compassion, justice, and peace. The path is not an easy one, but it can make all the difference. And so, what is that path?

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his closest companions and invited them to follow him so that they could be in the place he would prepare for them. To encourage them, he also said, “where I am going you know the way.” In reply, Thomas said to Jesus, “Master, we do not know the way.” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” (Jn. 14:6).

— Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.
Pastor

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As the summer draws to a close, I am reminded of Keisha Shepard's poem *Summer's End*. It begins with these words, *It seems I barely knew you. As quickly as you came, you went. And I weep at the thought of losing you*. While there may not be real tears, I am sure there is a tinge of sadness in saying goodbye to the lazy days of summer. However, let me assure you there were no lazy days here at the parish.

In June, we celebrated with gratitude Father Pennacchia who will now be teaching at Xavier High School. The good news is that he will be living in the Jesuit Community on 83rd Street and has offered to help with Masses, based upon his availability. Unfortunately, no Jesuit has been assigned to the parish in his place. Going forward, there will be three priests on the parish staff who will have responsibility for 16 weekday Masses, 6 weekend Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, Confessions, visits to the homebound and sick, spiritual counseling, and other staff responsibilities. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Fathers Hallinan and Hilbert for all that they so generously do at the parish, year-round!

Although there was less foot traffic in and out of the church and parish house, the regular routine of the parish continued unabated. At all our Masses, our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, and Cantors were there to assist in their respective ministries. Parishioners who are members of many of our parish ministries remained active and engaged either in their work or planning for the coming year. Our Pastoral Associates, Jean Santopatre, Kate Noonan, Roxanne De La Torre, and Brian Pinter were present, either in person or remotely, as they too engaged in the planning process for this year's programming.

The unsung heroes of the parish who work behind the scenes continue to work diligently so that the parish runs smoothly. Our sacristans, Julio Aguilar and Melbin Gonzales, worked throughout the summer in maintaining the condition of the interior of the church and setting up what is needed for all our liturgies, including weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Alas, after 12 years on the staff, we will be saying goodbye to Melbin as he and his young family trek west to be closer to their family members. I hope you will have the opportunity to wish him Godspeed. Finally, throughout the summer our facilities staff performed the routine maintenance of the entire physical plant, including the church, Parish House, and grammar school.

As for the big picture, here are a few of the major projects that were either completed or initiated during the summer: (1) the reception area of the Parish House was totally renovated; (2) after all too many years in darkness, the stained-glass window of the *Resurrected Christ* on the façade of the church will be illuminated. [Stay tuned for the day and time when the light switch will be turned on.]; (3) the sound system in Wallace Hall is being upgraded with retractable ceiling mics and a new sound-board; (4) heating units are now being installed in the narthex of the church that will hopefully reduce the frigid condition of the church in the winter months; and (5) barring any unforeseen delays, the electronic display boards on the façade of the church will soon be replaced.

We will soon be at full throttle, especially in the next few weeks. Mark your calendars for the following parish events. We have a *Festival Mass* on **Sunday, 13 September, at 11:00 AM**, and a *Golden Jubilee Mass* on **Sunday, 20 September, at 11:00 AM**. Our annual *Welcome Back Sunday* and *Ministry Fair* will be on **27 September**.

At the international side of parish activities, Father Hilbert and 12 parishioners traveled to Tuscany for a guided spiritual retreat and pilgrimage to Assisi and Siena. In October, 14 parishioners and I, along with congregants of Temple Emanu-El and Muslim representatives of Peace Islands Institute will participate in an interfaith tour in Spain to visit the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian heritage sites of Andalusia. In regard to our international footprint, given the tragic circumstances unfolding in the West Bank and a change of parish leadership, we are reassessing our sister parish relationship with St. Catherine's Church in Bethlehem.

As you have read, rather than basking in the sunshine of the lazy days of summer, we have been busy as bees throughout the summer, preparing for both the regular routine and special events of the parish. And so, as we rev up the engine of another year in the life of the parish, let us recommit ourselves to its mission and engage the world in ways that bring glory to God. It is a tall order, but our history as a parish shows us that it can be achieved both in small and extraordinary ways.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Yesenia

This Week at a Glance

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

Choir of Merton College, Oxford in Concert.
7:30 PM. Church. *Details at right.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

Rosary & Benediction.
1 PM. Lady Chapel. *Details below.*

Golden Jubilee Mass and Reception for Fr. Yesalonia

Sunday, September 20th at 11 AM
Church (Mass) & McKinnon Hall (Reception)

We invite you to join us as we celebrate the Jesuit Golden Jubilee of our pastor, Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.

Together, we will honor his 50 years as a Jesuit and give thanks for the faith, leadership, and service that have characterized his vocation.

Reception to follow in McKinnon Hall.

Rosary & Benediction

Saturday, September 19th at 1 PM
Lady Chapel

Whether the Rosary is part of your regular prayer or you have never experienced the beauty of Benediction, LGBT Catholics & Friends invites all parishioners to gather for an hour of prayer.

Fr. Michael Hilbert, S.J., will lead us in the Rosary and Benediction, with time to pray together and rest in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Printed orders of service will be available, so no prior experience is needed. Bring your intentions and your rosary and join us for this time of prayer together. All are welcome.

A Call to Faithful Citizenship

Monday, October 5th, 6:30 PM to 8 PM
Wallace Hall

Join us for a 90-minute, non-partisan discernment opportunity on how Catholic Social Teaching can inform faithful participation in the upcoming midterm election.

We will consider how faith can guide conscience beyond political polarization and help Catholics navigate complex moral choices while affirming civic participation as part of discipleship.

RSVP to SILCatholicsInCommunion@gmail.com.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at *stignatiusnyc*.

***Mary Magdalene: A Novel* by Barbara Lee**

Wednesday, September 23rd

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Wallace Hall

(Enter via the stairs under the main entrance to the church, or take the elevator on East 84th Street)

Mary, Apostle to the Apostles, is a role model for marginalized women of all times and places.

There will be a book reading and signing, followed by time for questions and a simple wine-and-cheese reception.

RSVP by Sunday, September 20th.
To RSVP, email Mfullam@ivcusa.org.

Book Reading and Discussion: *Road Trip Detour: Exploring Life's Journey*

Thursday, October 29th at 6 PM in Wallace Hall

In *Road Trip Detour*, former parishioner Rich Miller-Murphy shares his personal story of loss, illness, and hope.

After losing his longtime partner to AIDS, his mother to pancreatic cancer, and his grandfather after heart surgery, Miller-Murphy faced serious health problems of his own as well as two psychiatric hospitalizations while hiding his sexuality.

Supported by his family and friends, he found his way forward. With a marriage in 2004 and twins in 2007, Miller-Murphy ultimately found that life's challenges can lead to a meaningful and purposeful life by having a positive outlook and accepting help when you need it most.

Concerts at St. Ignatius

Choir of Merton College, Oxford in Concert

Thursday, September 17th at 7:30 PM
Church

Join the Choir of Merton College, Oxford for a program of music celebrating the English Choral tradition at its finest. Works by Tallis, Gibbons and Bairstow trace the flourishing of Anglican choral music across the centuries, culminating in contemporary works by living composers commissioned by this forward-looking choir. The choir also marks the 25th anniversary of 9/11 with a performance of Herbert Howells' masterpiece *Take him, Earth, for cherishing*, written in 1963 in memory of John F. Kennedy.

Free and open to the public. No tickets needed! Doors open at 6:45 PM.

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.

Associate Pastors

Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J.

Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.

Assisting Priest

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

In Residence

Rev. James A. Casciotti, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Roxanne De La Torre

Kate Noonan

Brian Pinter

Jean Santopatre

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Haley

Music Ministries

Jen Arvay Kefalas

Robert Reuter

Daniel Beckwith

Michael Sheetz

Christina Kay

Elizabeth Van Os

Douglas Purcell

Scott Warren, *Director*

Assistant to the Pastor

Rebecca Brucas

Director of Communications

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Director of Facilities

Robert Cisternino

Facilities Coordinator

Pattie Hughes

Parish Administrative Assistant

Caitlin Caruso

Treasurer

Fernando Castro

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Kate Noonan, Director

(212) 288-3588 x609

noonank@nycignatius.org

Saint Ignatius Loyola School

Upper Campus

(First Grade through Eighth Grade)

Ms. Mary Larkin, Head of School

M.S. Ed. (Admin.), M.S. Ed. (Literacy)

48 East 84th Street

(212) 861-3820 | Fax: (212) 879-8248

Lower Campus

(PreK-3 through Kindergarten)

Ms. Mary Larkin, Head of School

240 East 84th Street

(212) 734-6427 | Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass.

Confessions

4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please contact Maureen Haley at

baptisms@nycignatius.org

to arrange for a Baptism and

the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A.,

Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages

The Bride or Groom should contact

Maureen Haley at

weddings@nycignatius.org

to begin preparation for Marriage,

normally one year in advance.

Visits to the Sick

Please contact the Parish House

between the hours of

9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Spiritual Direction

For more information or for help
finding a Spiritual Director, please

contact Roxanne De La Torre at

delatorreR@nycignatius.org.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, September 14th

(The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 78

Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17

8:30 MEM Paul Choix

12:10 MEM Raymond Manza

5:30 MEM Edward Midolo

Tuesday, September 15th

(Our Lady of Sorrows)

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a

Psalm 100 John 19:25-27

8:30 MEM James John Rogers

12:10 MEM Charles A.

Spadafora

5:30 MEM Karen Kerge

Wednesday, September 16th

(Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian)

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Psalm 33 Luke 7:31-35

8:30 MEM Maria Rosario

Ching Legarda

12:10 MEM Ann Stewart

5:30 MEM Clarita Santiago

Cruz

Thursday, September 17th

(St. Robert Bellarmine)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Psalm 118 Luke 7:36-50

8:30 ANN Donald Fesko

12:10 MEM Thelma C. Almonte

5:30 MEM Allesandra Simon

Friday, September 18th

(24th Friday in Ordinary Time)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Psalm 17

Luke 8:1-3

8:30 MEM Ernesto Sarmiento

12:10 MEM Richard Michael

Myrlak

5:30 MEM Shane O'Reilly

Saturday, September 19th

(24th Saturday in Ordinary Time)

1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49

Psalm 56 Luke 8:4-15

8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

Sunday, September 20th

(25th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 145

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matthew 20:1-16a

Weekday Masses (Monday – Friday)

8:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for Next Weekend

Saturday Vigil

5:30 PM Fr. Hilbert

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

9:30 AM Fr. Casciotti

Solemn Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

7:30 PM Fr. Pennacchia